

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Lower Cape Cod Community Development Corporation** **Receives \$50,000 Federal Grant**

N. EASTHAM, MA – USDA Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle arrived at the Lower Cape Cod Community Development Corporation offices in North Eastham today with a \$50,000 check in hand.

The check represents the grant amount awarded to the Lower Cape Cod CDC through the USDA's Rural Business Enterprise Grant program. The federal funds, coupled with state funds totaling over \$145,000 and \$10,000 raised by the CDC, will be used toward the costs of operating a technical assistance program for small, local businesses. The program will include the development of a computer software system that will create a centralized, online platform to which seventy-five individual businesses will be able to connect. The program also aims to train existing, Cape Cod area businesses to become web based and automated.

The Lower Cape Cod CDC was created in 1992 by a group of interested community residents and leaders who saw the need for a non-profit agency to focus on affordable housing and economic development for the eight towns commonly referred to as the Lower Cape. Believing that a strong part of the Lower Cape economy is through its locally owned small businesses, artists, and crafts people, the CDC chose this area for the focus of its economic development programs. Responding to what the owners of those businesses said they needed, the CDC established the Comprehensive Business Builders<sup>SM</sup> Program, providing one on one technical assistance, resource centers, workshops, seminars, and loan programs.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans. USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. In Fiscal Year 2005, USDA Rural Development provided over \$58.5 million in assistance to Massachusetts' rural communities and families.

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